



Office of Field Services

2003-04

SECTION 31a PROGRAM FOR AT-RISK PUPILS

Eligible

Recipients

Sec. 31a (2)

- Local school districts with a current year combined state and local revenue per membership pupil of less than or equal to \$6,500, as adjusted by index
- Public school academies

Allocation

Formula

Sec. 31a (1)

and (3)

- October 31, 2002 final adjusted free breakfast, lunch, or milk count multiplied by 11.5% of foundation allowance; prorated if necessary by a per-pupil amount
- For public school academies that began operations after the prior year membership count day, the October 31, 2003 adjusted free breakfast, lunch, or milk count

Eligible Pupils

Sec. 31a (15)

- Pupils who meet at least 2 of the following criteria:
 - victim of child abuse or neglect
 - below grade level in English language and communications skills or mathematics
 - pregnant teenager or teenage parent
 - eligible for free or reduced-price lunch
 - atypical behavior or attendance patterns
 - family history of school failure, incarceration or substance abuse
- OR
- Pupils whose score on their most recent MEAP reading, mathematics or science test was:
 - less than Moderate in reading or mathematics
 - less than Novice in science
- OR
- Pupils in grades K-3 who are at risk of not meeting the district's core academic curricular objectives in English language, communication skills or mathematics

Program

Services

Sec. 31a (4)

- Instructional programs and direct noninstructional services (e.g., medical or counseling services)
- May be provided before or after regular school hours or by adding extra school days
- May use tutorial method with paraprofessionals working under supervision of certificated teacher (ratio of pupils to paraprofessionals between 10:1 and 15:1)
- Early childhood programs to serve children age 0 to 5
- Reading programs as described in former Sec. 32f
- May not be used for administrative costs or to supplant another program or other funds being used for at-risk pupils

Sec. 31a (9)

- Reduction of class size in grades K-6, or any combination of those grades, in schools in which the percentage of pupils eligible for free lunch exceeds the district average; may request a waiver for schools with at least 30% poverty (if also at least 60% of district average)

NOTE: If Section 31a funds are used to reduce class size, the instructional program must be designed to assure a realistic opportunity for eligible pupils to achieve the district's core curriculum outcomes in accordance with Section 1278(6) of P.A. 335.

**Breakfast
Program**
Sec. 31a (5)

- Districts operating a school breakfast program must use an amount of Section 31a funds, not to exceed \$10 per pupil counted for the district's Section 31a allocation, necessary to operate the breakfast program.

NOTE: Section 31a funds may no longer be used for the lunch program.

**Adult
Education**
Sec. 31a (10)

- Section 31a funds may be used for adult high school completion, general education development (G.E.D.) test preparation, adult English as a second language, or adult basic education programs.

Allowable Costs
*State Board of
Education
Criteria
July 13, 1994*

- Costs that may be paid with Section 31a funds are limited to only that portion of the following that provides supplemental, instructional or support services to eligible students:
 1. Salaries and benefits for instructional staff;
 2. Salaries and benefits to staff providing direct noninstructional services;
 3. Purchased services, supplies and materials for instructional and direct noninstructional services;
 4. Operation, maintenance, and pupil transportation costs for programs provided outside of the regular school day or year;
 5. Costs for school breakfast programs; and
 6. Capital outlay necessary for the provision of instructional and direct noninstructional services, such as computers and other instructional equipment.

Accountability
*Sec. 31a (7)
and (8)*

- Written report on usage of Section 31a funds submitted to Department; program records available for audit; any disallowances returned to State.

NOTE: Districts must report the number of students receiving each program or service as well as the number of those students who are eligible for free or reduced-price school lunch.

Flexibility
Sec. 31a (11)

- May submit application to Department for flexible use of funds attributable to schools that made AYP.
- Proposed use of funds must be designed to benefit at-risk pupils in the schools included in the application.